THE FIFTH DAY.

13th November 1908.

The Assembly met at 11 A. M. on Friday, the 13th November.

The consideration of the local subjects was resumed.

SUBJECTS.

QUILON DIVISION.—*(continued).*

QUILON TALUK.

89. Provision of outlets for the Chittumala chira.

Mr. Govindan Unnithan (Member, Quilon Taluk) said that the necessity for providing outlets to the Chittumala chira had been brought up at the previous meetings of the Assembly. The chira is a big reservoir for virippu cultivation in Kallada proverthy. During the monsoon, it would be full and would inundate the neighbouring lands. He requested that the necessary works might be ordered to be carried out in the interests of the poor land-owners of the locality.

Dewan's reply.—The matter is being investigated by the Chief Engineer. If the estimate for the work is received before the end of the current year, the work could be taken up in 1085.

90. Improvement of the Kannanallore road and repair of the Azhathil bridge.

Mr. Govindan Unnithan (Member, Quilon Taluk) said that there was at present a village road from Quilon to the Kannanallore market. The distance of the road was only 7 miles and the place was a thickly populated one. The bridge at Azhathil had also gone down. The Member requested that the village read might be converted into a cart-road and the bridge repaired.

Dewan's reply.—The Executive Engineer reports that the road is not an important one and that the traffic on it is poor. Government therefore see no justification to spend any large amount on this road. Government cannot also construct a bridge at Azhathil. But it has been suggested by the Executive Engineer that a causeway might be constructed with under-tunnels. This will be considered.

91. Construction of a road through the Kummallore landing.

Mr. Geeverghese (Member, Quilon Taluk) requested that a road might be opened through Kummallore landing from the 11th mile-stone of the Ithikara-Ayur road to the 34th mile-stone on the Trivandrum-Madathora road.

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SUBJECTS.

Dewan's reply.—The tract in question is well provided with roads. The proposal to make another road there cannot be sanctioned.

92. *Reduction of the acreage value for the registry of lands within the Quilon Cantonment.*

Mr. S. K. Kochu Hassan Kunju (Member, Town Improvement Committee, Quilon) said that the decision of Government fixing an acreage value of Rs. 1,000 on the Quilon cantonment lands was hard and prayed that orders might be issued for the registry of the lands under the ordinary puduval rules.

Mr. D. G. Cameron of Quilon (Member, Nominated) said that, when the Cantonment was no longer required for military purposes and Government issued pattahs to the holders of lands and collected taxes, it was assumed that those lands would be treated in the same way as adjoining and similar lands all over Travancore. The owners of lands on the opposite side of the road were allowed to settle when and where they liked and they were granted fixity of tenure on payment of 25 times the assessment. The owners of the cantonment lands were, on the other hand, accorded an anomalous treatment and they were asked to pay an entirely prohibitive and impossible price, which even 10 per cent of the 200 owners could not pay, even if they were willing. He pointed out that all would have been on the same footing had not the Cantonment been set apart for military purposes and that the entire land would have been occupied and settled long ago. The result of the high demand was, the Member said, stagnation of an even more pronounced type than obtained during the military occupation, as no one could afford to pay the price and one and all felt that improvements, which at any moment might be assumed by Government without compensation, were impossible. Owners had been looking forward to the resumption of the lands by Government, believing that the reasonable and equitable terms which had always been the rule with Government, would be extended to them. From time to time, parts of the Cantonment were handed back to Government, and in all such cases, the occupiers were granted fixity of tenure on payment of the usual vilayartham of 25 years' tax without question. He added that the grants made by the Military department in British Indian cantonments had been recognised by the Courts as giving a valid title, where Cantonments as such had ceased to exist. The Member requested a reconsideration of the matter in the light of the above circumstances.

Dewan's reply.—A survey of the Cantonment lands has been ordered for the purpose of settling them. Some

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